

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

**Claim 1-16 (canceled)**

**Claim 17 (as originally filed)** A method for removing zones from a density gradient having a plurality of zones therein, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a density gradient in a vessel;  
applying sample particles to the gradient;  
centrifuging to separate the particles into one or more zones in the gradient;  
inserting a float into the vessel, the float having a concave upper surface, the concave upper surface defining a well for capturing a zone of the density gradient;  
pushing the float downward into the vessel such that at least a portion of one zone of the density gradient spills over an upper circumferential edge of the float into the well; and  
removing the captured zone from the well.

**Claim 18 (as originally filed)** A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein:

said pushing step includes using a pipette to contact and push the float downward;  
and  
said removing step includes applying suction to the pipette to remove the captured zone from the well.

**Claim 19 (as originally filed)** A method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

pushing the float downward into the vessel such that at least a portion of a second zone of the density gradient spills over an upper circumferential edge of the float into the well; and

removing the captured second zone from the well.

**Claim 20 (as originally filed)** A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

said pushing step in claim 19 includes using a pipette to contact and push the float downward; and

said removing step in claim 19 includes applying suction to the pipette to remove the second captured zone from the well.

**Claims 21-52 (canceled)**